

Glenmont
(Thomas A. Edison House;
Edison National Historic Site)
Llewellyn Park
West Orange
Essex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-729

HABS
NJ,
7-DRAW,
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

MULTIPLE
ADDITIONS
FOLLOW

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GLENMONT
(Thomas A. Edison House;
Edison National Historic Site)

HABS No. NJ-729

Location: Llewellyn Park, West Orange, Essex County, New Jersey.
Present Owner: National Park Service.
Present Use: Museum and National historic site.
Significance: Glenmont is an excellent example of an upper-class suburban mansion of the 1880s. It was the home of Thomas Alva Edison from 1886 to 1931, and was designed in the Queen Anne style.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1880
2. Architect: Henry Hudson Holly, A.I.A. (1834-1892)
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is incomplete record of property ownership of Glenmont.

1880 - 1886: Henry Peder
1886 - 1931: Thomas A. Edison
1956 - Present: National Park Service
4. Alterations and additions: Several changes were made to the house. (This information is incomplete).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The exterior's important features include the intersecting gable roofs, tall chimneys and porches. The interior has an unsymmetrical floor plan and some handsome trim.
2. Condition of fabric: Some deterioration of framing, siding and balustrades is evident; however, measures are being taken to correct the situation. Otherwise, fabric condition is very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The house has an irregular L shaped plan with many projections and indentations. It is a three-story structure with an attic and a basement. Dimensions are not available.
2. Foundations: Random coursed Wyoming bluestone.
3. Walls:
 - a. First floor: Pressed red brick with red mortar joints, running bond.
 - b. Entrance area: Buff bricks painted red with red mortar joints, running bond. A decorative terra cotta frieze is below and a basket-weave bond is above.
 - c. Second and Third floors: Frame construction with clapboard, clapboard paneling, sheet paneling, and shingle sheathing, painted red.
4. Structural system, framing:
 - a. Basement and First floor: Brick and stone masonry-bearing wall.
 - b. Upper floors: Frame construction.
5. Porches: A balustraded, open-roofed porch extends on either side of the main entrance along the east elevation. The floor is wood covered with painted canvas. It is built on the top of the foundation wall and a door leads from the porch into the conservatory.

A porte-cochere forms the main entrance on the east side of the building. It was originally one-story high with brick columns, but later a frame second-story with a large bay window was built over it.

A small porch is on the north side of the building at the end of a small building. The porch floor is constructed of painted wood boards and there is an opening from the porch to an icebox.
6. Chimneys: There are eight brick chimneys with corbelled tops, elaborate terra cotta decorations, and high terra cotta chimney pots.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There is an outside doorway to the basement on the north side. On the first floor there are two doorways on the north side, one on the east (main doorway), and one on the west.

The main doorway (east) is faced with mahogany and is flanked by two rectangular windows with an oval pattern in the mullions. Over the door and two windows is a wooden arch. Under the arch are multi-paned lights.

- b. Windows: The windows in the house are for the most part double-hung wood sash-- the major exception being those in the conservatory. Several of the windows on the first floor have a flat brick arch spanning them and stained glass in the transom. There is a large stained glass window by Louis Tiffany and Company on the west wall above the first landing of the main stairway.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof consists of a series of intersecting gables covered with rectangular gray shingles. On top of the building is a balustraded deck covered with sheet metal painted red. The balustrade consists of turned balusters.
- b. Cornice: The cornices are medium sized, molded, painted red, and have some dentils. The cornices on the main gables have some pents while those on the minor gables have returns at the ends. One of the largest cornices in the building extends from the soffit of the porte-cochere to the underside of the bay window in Room 205.
- c. Dormers: There is one dormer on the east elevation with two 16/1 double-hung windows which was added later and forms part of Room 305.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The plans are irregular with rooms clustered on small hallways which lead to a large stair hall near the center of the building. Near the main stairway is a smaller servants' stairway. The basement consists of storage rooms and a furnace room. On the first floor is a foyer, library, music room, living

room, dining room, den, laundry, kitchen, and storage rooms. On the second floor are five bedrooms, Edison's study, and a sunporch. The third floor consists of eight servants' quarters and storage rooms. The attic is for the most part unfinished and used only for storage. A crawlspace is under Rooms 109, 110, 112, 113, and 114.

2. Stairways: There is a grand, open mahogany stairway which leads from the foyer to the second floor. The top of the newel post on the first floor is an elaborately carved lion. The newel on the main landing has a lamp on top of it with an elegant spherical shade made of glass beads. The balusters are all of turned mahogany.

Between the cellar and the third floor is a winding servants' stairway with turned newel posts and balusters.

There is a ladder that connects the attic with the roof deck.

(This information is incomplete; there may be one or two more stairways).

3. Flooring:

- a. First floor: Parquet floor.
- b. Second floor: Narrow hardwood.
- c. Third floor: Narrow softwood.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted and stenciled ceilings. Most ground floor rooms are wainscotted. Fancy stucco work.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Doors appear to be mostly original.
- b. Windows: Not recorded.

6. Hardware: There are decorative doorknobs on the first and second story doors and rather plain china doorknobs on the third story doors. Many original mortice locks are still in existence in the house. A great many of the original door hinges are still in use, and on the windows are the original lift handles and locks.

7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: Many rooms have fireplaces, but none are now in use. Two coal-burning, hot-air furnaces were added later and are used now. The most elaborate fireplace is located on the south wall of Room 103. The fireplace is made of carved mahogany with molded pilasters on either side of the brass-framed surround which defines the fireplace opening. On the perimeter of the narrow hearth is a low, ornamental brass firescreen. Over the tall mantel is a mahogany overmantel which extends to the ceiling. Inset in this overmantel is a richly carved panel. The design on the panel consists of two crossed pikes with a breastplate and helmet overlaid, with a floral surrounding. At the head of the overmantel, over the heraldic panel, is an arcade consisting of four arches.
- b. Lighting: The house originally was lighted by gas jets. Later direct current lamps were installed and still later (1948?) alternating current lamps were used. Some old gas jets remain but are not in use. Many handsome lamps, globes and shades are located throughout the house.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Fourteen acres of landscaped grounds surround the house which faces east toward Glen Avenue. The house is approached by a narrow gravel road from Glen Avenue.
2. Landscaping and walks: Curving walks lead to and around the house and through the small formal rose garden. Scattered throughout the grounds are naturalistic plantings with large trees and hedges around the perimeter of the property.
3. Outbuildings: Outbuildings include Gardener's Cottage and Greenhouse, barn, garage, pump house, and hose house. See also separate HABS files for the first four buildings.

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March 17, 1959

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August 9, 1963

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October 18, 1984

Addendum to:

GLENMONT

(Thomas A. Edison House)

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Llewellyn Park

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Data pages 1 through 6 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 7.

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRIC IMAGES

The glass photogrammetric plates listed below are not reproducible except with special permission. However, reference prints and film copy negatives have been made from the plates indicated by an asterisk (*) and are included in the Library of Congress collection of formal HABS/HAER photographs.

36 5" x 7" glass plate negatives (18 stereopairs) produced
by Perry E. Borchers of the Ohio State University in 1961.

One survey control contact print per plate; survey
control information for each pair.

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-101L *	VIEW FROM SE
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-101R	VIEW FROM SE
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-102L *	EAST ELEVATION--DISTANT VIEW
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-102R	EAST ELEVATION--DISTANT VIEW
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-103L *	EAST ELEVATION--LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-103R	EAST ELEVATION--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 80%

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LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-104L *	EAST ELEVATION--INCLINED
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-104R	EAST ELEVATION--INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 80%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-105L *	VIEW OF SOUTH ELEVATION
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-105R	VIEW OF SOUTH ELEVATION
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-106L *	SOUTH ELEVATION, CLOSEUP VIEW OF REAR PORTION--LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-106R	SOUTH ELEVATION, CLOSEUP VIEW OF REAR PORTION--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 75%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-108L *	ANGLED VIEW FROM SW
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-108R	ANGLED VIEW FROM SW
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-109L *	WEST ELEVATION, SOUTH PORTION--LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-109R	WEST ELEVATION, SOUTH PORTION--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-110L *	WEST ELEVATION, CLOSEUP VIEW OF SOUTH PORTION--LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-110R	WEST ELEVATION, CLOSEUP VIEW OF SOUTH PORTION--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 85%

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LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-111L *	WEST ELEVATION, CLOSEUP VIEW OF SOUTH PORTION--INCLINED
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-111R	WEST ELEVATION, CLOSEUP VIEW OF SOUTH PORTION--INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-112L *	WEST ELEVATION, NORTH PORTION
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-112R	WEST ELEVATION, NORTH PORTION
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-113L *	ANGLED VIEW FROM NW
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-113R	ANGLED VIEW FROM NW
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-114L *	NORTH ELEVATION, CLOSEUP OF WEST PORTION--LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-114R	NORTH ELEVATION, CLOSEUP OF WEST PORTION--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-115L *	NORTH ELEVATION, CLOSEUP OF WEST PORTION--INCLINED
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-115R	NORTH ELEVATION, CLOSEUP OF WEST PORTION--INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-117L *	NORTH ELEVATION OF PORCH AND FRONT--LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-117R	NORTH ELEVATION OF PORCH AND FRONT--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 90%

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-118L NORTH ELEVATION OF PORCH AND
FRONT--ANGLED VIEW

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-118R * NORTH ELEVATION OF PORCH AND
FRONT--ANGLED VIEW

Left and right overlap: 90%

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-119L * RECEPTION HALL BY MAIN ENTRY
(Diapositive)
(No contact print)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-119R RECEPTION HALL BY MAIN ENTRY
(Diapositive)
(No contact print)

Left and right overlap: 60%

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-120L * FIREPLACE OF RECEPTION HALL
(Diapositive)
(No contact print)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1989-120L FIREPLACE OF RECEPTION HALL
(Diapositive)
(No contact print)

Left and right overlap: 55%

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Photogrammetric images were incorporated into the HABS/HAER collections in the summers of 1985 and 1986. Inventories of the images were compiled and filed as data pages for each structure recorded. Since the glass photogrammetric plates are not reproducible except with special permission, a reference print and film copy negative were made from one plate of each stereopair and from the most informative plates in sequential sets. The reference prints and copy negatives were then incorporated into the formal HABS/HAER photograph collections.

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